

SECRET NOFORN

7 November 1980

NOTE FOR: [redacted]
Office of Security

FROM : PB/NSC Coordinator

SUBJECT: Soviet Brigade Issue [redacted]
[redacted]

1. You asked if I would put down what I remembered regarding the issue which arose with the Army over the IIM on the Soviet Brigade in Cuba. Following are my best recollections of what transpired:

- I believe it was during the week of 16 July 1979 that I had a couple of chance encounters with [redacted] regarding the IIM on the Soviet Brigade in Cuba that was currently in draft. On one of these occasions when I asked him how things were going, he allowed as to how the Army was being more than usually difficult in the coordination process. He indicated that this primarily had to do with a view held by some in the Army that the purpose of the Soviet brigade might be related to nuclear weapons. On several occasions he mentioned a [redacted] as being a particular nuisance on this issue. He indicated that he (and presumably others here) were talking to [redacted] on a frequent basis about this. I gathered that [redacted] was being particularly difficult in the coordination process and had implied that there was no way that his boss, [redacted] would agree to the language in the draft that had been agreed to by everybody else.

- I believe it was late in the afternoon of 19 July that I saw [redacted] again. As I recall he indicated that [redacted] had told him that [redacted] was definitely going to dissent from the Community position and [redacted] felt he needed to talk with the DCI on a rather urgent basis on this matter since the IIM was due to be disseminated on the 20th. I believe what [redacted] wanted the Director to do was either to talk with [redacted] or to give guidance as to how [redacted] should proceed. In looking through my files I find that [redacted] on the 19th, sent the Director two memos on the subject, one with the final draft. I do not know if the Director talked to [redacted] the night of the 19th (you might check with the Ops Center to see if he placed a secure call from home). The upshot was that the DCI approved the IIM without an Army footnote.

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- On the 20th of July there was an SCC meeting on Cuba and Central America (at which the brigade issue was discussed); and the following Monday (23 July) there was a mini-SCC specifically to address the issue of Soviet forces in Cuba.
- I believe it was on the morning of 20 July that a Pre-Brief for the SCC was held in the NFAC Conference Room (7E-32). There were about 20 to 30 people present (the room was filled). The purpose was to review, with the DCI, all of the latest information we had regarding the activities of the Soviet brigade. There were many players from OPA, OSR, NPIC and the NIOs present. (Specifically I remember [redacted] [redacted] Helene Boatner, [redacted])
- During this Pre-Brief (which was not a session to discuss the IIM) a secretary from the NFAC front office interrupted the meeting to say there was a call for the Director from [redacted]. Someone at the meeting commented that this must be in relation to the Army footnote on the IIM. The Director, who was deeply involved in the Pre-Brief, did not take the call. As I recall Helene Boatner said she would, and left the room. I believe that, when she returned, she relayed that [redacted] had indicated that while he acceded to the Director's determination that the footnote not appear in the Soviet Brigade IIM they wanted to raise the issue in the forthcoming IIM on USSR-Cuba.
- The Pre-Brief continued and lasted for about an hour. [redacted] accompanied the Director to the SCC on the afternoon of the 20th. I have previously provided you [redacted] MemRec as well as the official NSC Summary of Conclusions.

2. There was a subsequent event which took place related to this issue which may be of interest to you. On 25 July the Director met with the Secretary of Defense. One of the items they discussed was Soviet-Cuban activities. In our briefing note for him we provided the following information:

- We noted that the Army, regarding the Soviet-Cuban IIM that was in preparation, was still insistent on including the possibility that the Soviet unit in Cuba could be used as a security force for nuclear weapons storage sites; and further that the Soviets might in the future supply Cuba with submarines that had nuclear weapons. We noted that while the Army gave in on this issue on the Soviet Brigade IIM, they gave every indication of being adamant on it for the Soviet-Cuban IIM.

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As I recall [] was unaware of any such position within DoD and asked his Executive Assistant, [] to check it out and let us know. I

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believe it was the next day (26 July) that I talked with [] and he informed me that he was unable to find anyone in a position of authority

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(including [] who wanted to make an issue of this. I reported the results of this conversation to the Director and to

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[] found this very interesting and indicated that [] was still giving them a hard time but they would just have to see how the development of the IIM went. []

3. I hope these rough recollections are useful. []

